

Corrective surgery policy opens eyes

As early as July 1999, the Air Force has allowed its members to receive corrective eye surgery, prohibited for many years, at their own expense. However, to many AF members, guidance on this particular issue has been nonexistent to vague, at best.

Even with the latest Surgeon General's Policy Letter (dated April 11, 2000) on the subject, many are still unaware of the proper procedures to take when electing to have corrective surgery.

The following is a concise but thorough explanation of a member's rights and responsibilities with regard to the Air Force policy on corrective eye surgery.

There are three types of corrective eye surgery currently performed in the United States: Photorefractive Kerotectomy (PRK), Radial Kerotomy (RK), and laser in situ Keratomileusis (LASSIK). Of these, only RK is not permitted in the Air Force.

Due to the possible impact on a member's fitness for duty on worldwide qualification,

active duty members need commander's permission (a formal letter is highly encouraged).

A mandated pre-surgery briefing will be provided to ensure they understand the inherent risks involved in this or any surgery. None of these surgeries are provided until members understand the inherent risks involved in this or any surgery. None of these surgeries are provided or covered by local Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) or TRICARE.

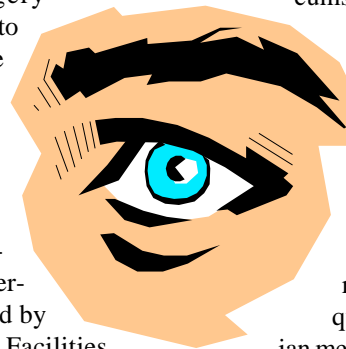
There is nothing that prohibits active duty members from obtaining elective surgery at their own expense. However, because corrective eye surgery is an elective procedure, military disability benefits are not guaranteed should there be a negative outcome. In the event of negative outcome,

a line-of-duty determination could be required and could result in the member losing their Reserve/Guard position if the circumstances warrant.

Members are required to notify their MTF within 72 hours of being treated in a civilian facility. This allows the MTF to collect any medical information on the procedure and properly file it in their military medical records. Patients are also required to arrange for the civilian medical facility to forward a summary of treatment to the MTF.

Because this surgery is not predetermined a medical necessity; AD members must take regular leave for the procedure as well as any recovery time required.

Patients must schedule an appointment to see an optometrist at the sixth and twelfth month points after the procedure.



Volunteers salute hospitalized veterans

In honor of America's hospitalized veterans, local celebrities, youth groups and veterans service organizations will visit patients at VA medical centers the week of Valentine's Day. In addition to these visits, organizations like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are visiting veteran's homes and other facilities to increase community awareness of the VA's role in providing comprehensive medical care to our nation's vets.

In the spirit of the February 14th holiday, Americans are encouraged to visit hospital-

ized vets.

The annual VA National Salute program began in 1978 when VA took over sponsorship of a program started in 1974 by No Greater Love, Inc., a humanitarian organization.

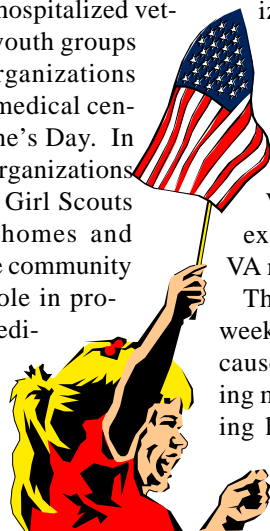
VA voluntary service staff plan and execute local programs of activities at VA medical centers and nursing homes.

The traditional observance during the week of Valentine's Day is appropriate because the sentiments of caring and sharing match the salute's purpose of expressing honor and appreciation to hospitalized veterans.

Other appropriate recognition comes from such people as newspa-

per columnist Ann Landers. Each year, Landers devotes a column in January to the National Salute, asking readers to send Valentine cards and letters to hospitalized veterans at their nearest VA medical center or nursing home. More than a million cards and letters are sent to the VA patients each year during the National Salute.

The staff of the Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver, will recognize hospitalized Veterans in the local area on February 14th with a flag folding ceremony conducted by the ARPC Honor Guard and delivery of a valentine to each veteran by numerous staff volunteers, both military and civilian.



Vacancies

♦ **Community relations experienced needed at Luke, AFB, Ariz.** Call Lt Col Lefforge at DSN 896-6011.

♦ **AF Wargaming Institute at Maxwell AFB, Ala., needs experienced PAs and Broadcasters for exercise:** Dates needed are from April 12-26. Call SMSgt Sharp at DSN 493-2185.

♦ **Air University needs an experienced NCO or officer:** Call Lt Col Krejcarek at DSN 493-2014.

♦ **PA officer needed to serve as the NAF PAO at 9th Air Force, Shaw AFB, S.C.** needed for 45-days starting ASAP. Contact MSgt Hyland at (757) 764-5014 or DSN 574-5014.

♦ **Two enlisted members needed at Minot AFB:** for immediate help with mandays or preferably to take a position as IMA. Contact MSgt Hyland at DSN 574-5014.

♦ **Seven officer and enlisted PAs needed for joint exercise at Joint Warfighting Center in Suffolk, Va.** Dates of the exercise are 8-16 March with travel on 7 March. Grades may vary although editing/writing experience is required. Individuals will serve as media role-players and journalists (actually writing synthetic stories). A secret security clearance is required. POC is Bob Raub at (757) 686-7613, DSN 668-7613 or by email at raub@jwfc.jfcom.mil.

Good News

★ **Brigadier General**
Mark Rosenker

President Bush named Brig. Gen. Mark Rosenker as deputy assistant to the president and director of the White House Military Office.

"Mark Rosenker brings a unique combination of senior level private sector and military management skills to this critically important White House function. His broad experience will make him a valuable and effective member of my White House staff," said President George W. Bush.

Rosenker went to the White House from the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), where he served as assistant executive director for external affairs and managing director of its Washington office.

A brigadier general in the United States Air Force Reserve, he is currently assigned to the Pentagon as the mobilization assistant to the director of Air Force Public Affairs.

Rosenker's new position provides him the opportunity to continue serving the people of United States as both a military member and civilian.

★ **Chief Master Sergeant**
Cheryl Denise Adams

On the 22nd of January Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard, III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command and chief of Air Force Reserve selected Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Denise Adams as Command Chief Master Sergeant.

Reservists from all categories applied for this highly coveted position.

Among 12 nominees, Adams is said to be the one for the job. "She is a very dynamic person, who will take care of my enlisted," said Sherrard.

The job of command chief is a three-year controlled tour which involves advising the commander on matters influencing the health, morale, welfare and effective manning of more than 74,000 reservists and active duty members.

Prior to her new position, Adams served as command chief for the 932nd Airlift Wing located at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Adams will assume her new position Feb. 15th at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, Ga.

Avoiding conflict between stylebook and Tongue and Quill standards

By Maj. Tom Deall
Chief, Public Affairs

Whether a novice or experienced Air Force public affairs specialist, challenges to writing style still play a part in the editing process. Chief among the criticisms are differences between the Associated Press Stylebook and the Air Force Handbook 33-337, The Tongue and Quill.

Having an extra set of eyes look over a product before publication is a common practice and wisely so. If for no other reason it helps to get an unbiased view of the work in progress by a set of eyes not weary from endless reads, reads and re-reads.

Unfortunately, these helpful extra set of eyes is owned by people unfamiliar with the mandates established within the stylebook as taught at the Defense Information School, Ft. Meade, Md.

Among the leading complaints and edits is that of those pesky periods. Marking the end of sentences, when following the stylebook, they also sit themselves at the end of abbreviated rank. Found on page 156 under the heading "Military titles," the dots are found after each abbreviation. For example, when writing the rank of lieutenant colonel, the stylebook calls for Lt. Col.

Finding the first, and perhaps most controversial, difference between the two publications, readers note that the Tongue and Quill calls for the abbreviation to be written without a period or dot in sight. Hence, the author would simply write "Lt Col" followed by the name.

Another common difference centers around the use of capital letters. For example, any young editor or public affairs officer might have a discussion

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about using the word "president." A senior officer or NCO might contend that such a prominent position warrants a capital letter as would the word commander, first sergeant or director.

Of course, according to the stylebook, the prominence of the position does not dictate the use of a capital letter. That's a grammar issue, not protocol. Specifically, on page 196, the stylebook directs editors to, "Capitalize president only as a formal title before one or more names." However, it goes on to say that writers should, "Lowercase in all other uses: The president said today."

On the other hand, the Tongue and Quill is a bit less clear on this issue. On page 270, writers are directed to, "Capitalize titles when being used with a proper name or in place of a specific proper name, but not when used in a general sense." The authors use the following examples to try and clarify this rule:

The Commandant of ACSC; an intermediate service school commandant.

Have your director of research call me.

As for the use of president, the Tongue and Quill likes capitalization. For example, the authors direct writers to "Capitalize all references to heads of state or assistant head of state at all times."

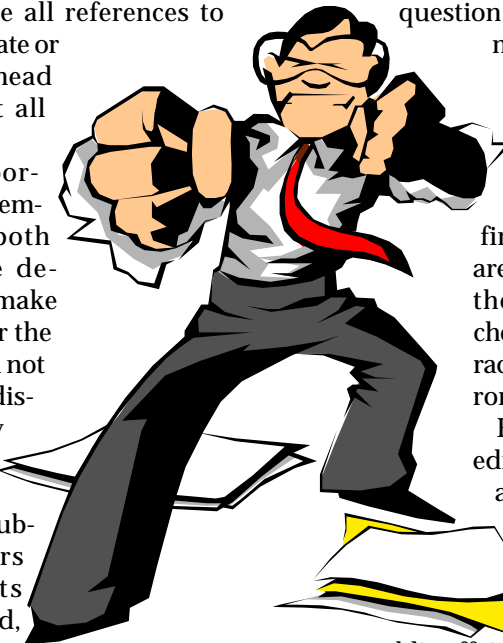
It's important to remember that both styles are designed to make it easier for the reader and not to create disharmony among editors, whether public affairs specialists or not. And, of course, the bottom line still holds true. Regardless of your publication title, it is still a

commander's tool and they establish protocol.

Yet, in most situations, it is not a question of one writing style being more right than the other.

Rather, it's a matter of education and understanding. By offering a Public Affairs 101 class, for example, most PA specialists find that their outside editors are more than willing to leave the guidelines alone while checking for information accuracy and spelling/grammar errors only.

Finding harmony among editors can easily become a reality whether writing a newsletter or a full wing newspaper. By sharing the uniqueness of the Associated Press Stylebook, public affairs specialists can avoid conflicts and still maintain a valuable editing process and team.



BRIEFS

Mileage Rates increased

Reimbursement rates for federal employees using their own cars and other vehicles for official travel increased January 22 under an announcement made by General Services Administration. The rate for use of a privately owned automobile on official travel rose to 34.5 cents per mile from the old 32.5 cents per mile rate. The rate increase reflects the generally higher cost of fuel; the automobile rate also mirrors a change in mileage deductibility rates for tax purposes under IRS rules for calendar year 2001.

Further Guidance on Hiring Order Issued

The Office of Personnel Management has issued new guidance on a Bush administration order that instructed agencies to carry out no hiring decisions until they are reviewed by Bush appointees. OPM clarified that the controls "do not apply to agencies where the department or agency head

has already been appointed and confirmed" and that newly appointed agency leaders have authority to delegate review and approval of hiring decisions. For agencies without an agency head appointed by the new administration and confirmed by the Senate, the hiring ban applies to all hiring decisions-including appointments, promotions or reassignments-"at all grade levels, from all sources." Such agencies may honor official job offers extended before January 20, however.

President's Pay Promise Likely to Hold

The fiscal 2002 Bush administration DoD budget submission "will reflect the President's campaign promises to increase the pay for the military" and to improve their housing, said presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer on January 31. But major changes to the budget must await completion of a force restructure review, he said. Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. Craig

Quigley said the Defense secretary agrees with the review, which either may be part of the ongoing Quadrennial Defense Review or may be separate.

Remains of Four Disinterred in Hawaii

Four sets of remains believed to be those of missing-in-action servicemen from World War II and the Korean War have been disinterred from Hawaii's National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific "the Punch Bowl". The cemetery is the resting-place of more than 800 remains classified as unknown from the Korean War, and more than 2,000 from WWII. Specialists will supervise the disinterment, and will apply forensic identification techniques, including mitochondrial DNA, to seek to identify the remains. They believe the four sets offer a high probability of identification. Family members believed to be associated with these remains have been contacted.

